

## The Automobile Seventy-Three Years Ago.



Hancock's steam-coach, which plied between London and Greenwich, resembled two stage-coaches on end, with a third compartment like a mail or luggage van. It was mentioned in the Parliamentary Report of 1833 as a machine in daily use on common roads. The Report continues, "Mr. Hancock reckons that with his carriage he could keep up a speed of ten miles per hour, without injury to the machine."

## To Abolish Wrecks.

### DEVICES INTENDED TO MAKE RAILROAD TRAVEL SAFER.

Inventions Recently Patented by an Indiana Man Which Are Hoped to Do Away Entirely with Present Despatching System.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Elmer E. Steiner, of Knightstown, has just patented two devices invented by him which he hopes will prevent many railroad accidents and make travel on trains much safer than it is at present.

Steiner's devices do away with the present despatching system and put in its stead an automatic system. He worked for two years on his inventions, and he thinks he has succeeded. He says his system has the following advantages:

It does away with all possibility of rear or head-on collisions, as each train crew knows at any time just where all the others are.

It is security against any train running into an open switch, as the register on each train shows whether the switch be open or closed.

It does away with telegraph operators, thus saving millions in salaries to the companies using it.

The system "cannot go to sleep at the instrument or the switch" and can work 24 hours a day without food, fatigue or pay.

Being purely mechanical, it is infallible, and cannot make a mistake or "misinterpret orders," and even if it could disaster would be impossible.

It does away with the necessity of making stops for any purpose except to take on or discharge passengers or freight.

"With the train reporting system," said Steiner, "a railroad may be equipped at regular intervals of any distance desired with stations in the track bed, each of these stations being connected by circuits of electric wires with the central office. Whenever a train passes over one of the stations it automatically registers the number of the train and the number of the station, so that the central dispatcher can tell at any moment just where any train is.

"In addition, every switch on the

line is equipped with stations, and the minute a train enters a siding the dispatcher will be notified by it by the automatic register of the number of the train. A switch is always registered open or closed, and if one is inadvertently left open the register will show it, and an approaching train can be advised of it from the central office."

With the intercommunicating system—his second device—attached, there is nothing left to be desired in a system of train despatching. By means of this system the central dispatcher may communicate order to an engineer, conductor or train crew, either while the train is standing still or moving, and in the same manner the crew can answer the orders. The system is so arranged that each train makes a constant circuit with the central office, and each train is constantly in a circuit with every other train on the same division. Thus one train crew can communicate with any other crew, and the register on one train will show just where every other train on the road is at any given time. An engineer can look at the register and

tell long before he reaches it if a switch which the train is approaching is open or closed, and he knows at a glance just how far ahead or behind him is any other train, in whichever direction it may be going.

The system would do away entirely with telegraph operators at way stations, so far as delivering and receiving orders are concerned. It would even be possible for trains to run under this system without a despatcher, as each train would know at any time where other trains were located. This, of course, would be impracticable, as it would give free rein to train crews to run too much at will.

Power for the system is furnished by either storage batteries or dynamos. Once installed the system would be inexpensive, as the first cost would be the greatest. It is adaptable to electric roads as well as to steam railroads.

Steiner, who is a rural mail-carrier, first began to think of his invention two years ago when he heard railroad men on a train discuss the problem of railroad accidents and their prevention. He then resolved to use his mechanical talent and ability in that direction, and he hopes that he will soon see the results of his labor in general use.

### SCENTS BURIED TREASURE.

Man Finds Mark of Vessel That May Have Held Gold.

Fort Worth, Tex.—While looking over his pasture in Reed county Mr. Dillard, who lives near Thorp Springs, was attracted by a mound of fresh earth. Upon investigation it was discovered that a hole had been dug and at the bottom was the imprint of some kind of a vessel that had been removed.

The place is particularly marked, the excavation being in the center of four roughly hewn stones, set in a square and sunk almost out of sight in the earth. A short distance from this square is another stone with a hatchet sketched on its surface, the edge of the hatchet blade pointing directly to the place where the excavation was made.

Mr. Dillard says he had often noticed the stones, but supposed they were simply an old landmark. The

supposition is that the vessel contained money and the find may be connected with an old story that has been told in that section ever since it was first settled.

This story is that in the country between Comanche peak and Robinson creek a large quantity of gold had been buried by parties who on their return from the goldfields of California were attacked and killed by the Indians then infesting the country.

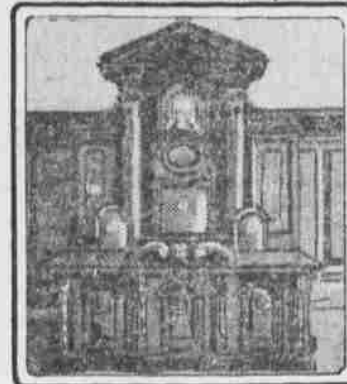
### Woman a Hermit 20 Years.

Trenton, O.—Kate Zimmerman, of Frazer street, who has been living alone in one room, refusing to have anything to do with other persons for 20 years, will be visited by the health officers to-morrow. According to the police reports to-night, neighbors have complained. Charles Reighter takes her food in a basket, which she hauls up with a rope. It is believed the woman is a miser and that this accounts for her secrecy and strange manner of living.

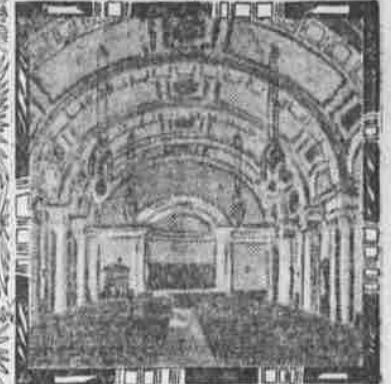
## Artistic City Hall at Belfast, Ireland, Recently Completed



A GENERAL VIEW OF THE NEW CITY HALL, BELFAST.



THE SEAT OF CIVIL AUTHORITY: THE LORD MAYOR'S CHAIR.



THE PUBLIC HALL OF THE NEW BUILDING.

The new city hall at Belfast, Ireland, one of the handsomest municipal palaces in the Emerald Isle, was formally opened by the Earl of Aberdeen, lord lieutenant of Ireland. The structure, which stands in Donegal Square, was begun seven years ago, and has cost \$1,500,000. The most distinguished part of the building is the main dome, which forms an exterior feature and also an internal one, the interior dome and entrance hall being treated with a marble scheme in which the most beautiful Greek and Italian marbles have been used. An ornate marble staircase leads to the council chamber, and the various entrances are highly artistic in design and finish. The principal point of beauty is said to lie in the monolithic Cippolino marble columns.

## CAN REMAIN SILENT.

### HOW COURT ADJUSTS FEUD OF AN AGED COUPLE.

Will Live Together in Same House, But Need Not Notice Each Other—Quarreled on Their Honeymoon.

Los Angeles, Cal.—A feud of long standing between Mrs. A. W. Ackerman, of Pasadena, and her husband, Morris Ackerman, has been temporarily settled, and although both of the old people will have to live in the same house, they are not compelled to speak to or notice each other.

The Ackerman case first became prominent in the local courts many months ago, when Mrs. Ackerman filed suit for divorce on the ground of cruelty. Her husband, Morris Ackerman, is 74 years of age and an old soldier, but in spite of his age he entered such a contest of the case that the complaint was withdrawn and the old people lived apart, waiting the time when the grim hand of death would separate them more surely than any court.

But her troubles increased and Mrs. Ackerman filed suit for maintenance and the case was threshed out in the higher courts after days of argument.

Judge Wilbur has decided that Ackerman, who has extensive real property, must give his wife \$25 a month for her support so long as she continues to live in the same house with him, but that if through any act of his she is compelled to leave, then the maintenance is to be doubled.

The Ackermans are at present living in Pasadena, although they own property in Los Angeles. They were married in 1902, and according to the

story of family troubles cited in the papers produced in court they began quarreling almost immediately thereafter.

On the honeymoon trip Mrs. Ackerman was accompanied by her grown son, and war resulted between husband and stepson. As a result of the disturbances the couple separated and have been doing so about once a month ever since.

Mrs. Ackerman, in stating her reasons for the trouble, testified that her husband had taken exception to her son and had given him an advertisement, clipped from a newspaper, in which a wealthy widow wanted to marry a young man. The elder Ackerman is alleged to have suggested that the son stop loafing and get married, or make a fortune some other way.

The final disturbance occurred when Mrs. Ackerman attempted to get her husband to go to bed. According to her allegations, she went to him in the library of their home and told him that it was time for him to retire and that he might catch cold. She alleges that he became enraged and told her he would choke her if she bothered him again.

In answering the allegations against him the old soldier carefully refrained from saying anything to hurt his wife's feelings. He simply stated that she had bothered him when he had a right to sit up all night if he wanted to. He further alleged that she threw a saucer of hot blackberries at him on one occasion when he invaded the kitchen to ask her a question.

Judge Wilbur, however, found for the plaintiff and ordered that both the old people stop interfering with each other and that the husband pay for his wife's support.

### HAS CURE FOR JUNGLE FEVER.

Dr. Senn Returns from Africa, Where He Studied All Phases of Malady.

Chicago.—Dr. Nicholas Senn, who has just returned from Africa, where he studied every phase of fever prevalent there, hopes to include in his forthcoming book some suggestions of great value in the treatment of the disease. He went to Belra, on the east coast of Africa, and journeyed up the Zambezi river into the country known as the death trap. Dr. Senn devoted himself especially to discovering some means of checking the disease in its incipient stages, its devastating effect being largely due to the fact that the symptoms have been allowed to develop unimpeded. Dr. Senn is said to have found some specific which strikes at the root of the malady to replace the copious doses of quinine which have been almost the sole medical agent used in the tropics.

Dr. Senn followed the course of Dr. Jameson and his raiders during the Boer war and studied the sturdy

Dutch settlers who made such a vigorous stand against the British government in South Africa.

### Beard Is Eight Feet Long.

Ortonville, Mich.—W. L. Guiles, of this place, is 58 years of age, and it is his proud boast that a razor has not touched his face in 20 years. During all this time his whiskers have continued to grow, and to-day they are a little over eight feet in length, about three feet of his remarkable hirsute adornment resting on the ground when he has his beard unfurled. The whiskers, however, occasion him little inconvenience, as he keeps them done up with hairpins under his chin except on rare occasions. As they are pinned in place for him at home and the process is an intricate and difficult one, he never lets his whiskers down outside of his own home circle, not because he isn't proud of the distinction he enjoys, but for the simple reason that he has not acquired the knack of getting his whiskers neatly back in place again.

Quarrels come easily enough without your going half-way to meet them.

### SEEK EDEN ON THE PACIFIC.

Self-Styled Adam Leads Band of Half Clad Followers.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—James F. Sharp, who says he is Adam, and a band of half clad followers numbering about 50, marched through the streets the other day from their abandoned camp outside the city. They are on their way to the Pacific coast. Sharp, as will be remembered, led a parade of nude persons through the streets here about a year ago, which resulted in several arrests and one of the band being sent to the asylum.

Sharp returned here a few weeks ago and established a camp east of town, where many of his followers went without clothing, under the belief that they were in the Garden of Eden. They were arrested time and time again, and fined.

In the parade through the streets were many little children, who had marched for eight miles without stopping, and were hardly able to walk. Covered wagons containing a dozen or more babies brought up the rear of the parade.

### STOMACH IS NO REFRIGERATOR.

Doctor Declares Much Sickness Is Due to Eating Ice Cream.

Lansing, Mich.—Ice cream is considered an excellent food when eaten in limited quantities with other articles of diet, but physicians say it is dangerous when taken in excess, declaring that the human stomach is no refrigerator.

Secretary Shumway, of the state board of health, has just issued a circular which causes cold chills to run down the spines of those who revel in ice cream. He says:

"Not a season passes without a number of incidents occurring of sickness and epidemics, the cause of which is directly traced to eating ice cream."

The principal ways by which the frozen dainty is likely to cause sickness, declares Mr. Shumway, are metallic poisoning, impure flavoring compounds, impure milk or cream, and carelessness in allowing any of the ice, salt or water in the bucket to mix with the cream.

Metallic poisoning is caused by the use of two different metals in the freezer. Many freezers are composed

of heavily tinned iron. It is recommended that when the tin surface of these freezers is worn off so as to expose the iron the freezer be discarded.

The danger of metallic poisoning is also increased by allowing the paddle to remain in the cream, and it is recommended that the paddle be removed immediately when the freezing is completed.

"It is criminal to put into ice cream impure or poisonous flavoring, extracts," says the secretary, who declares that this is sometimes done. Many fruit flavors are said to be preserved with formaldehyde or arsenic.

The circular concludes with "However, if some persons are still living to eat and will persist in using ice cream, it is suggested that the cream and flavors should be boiled before being frozen, thus reducing the chances of fomentation and consequent poisoning to the minimum."

### He Was a Relic Hunter.

A man who was arrested for breaking into a house in Berlin made the excuse that he only wanted a pair of shoes belonging to a celebrated Russian pianist who was staying in the house. A collection of women's shoes, all neatly labeled and catalogued, was found in the room where he lived.